

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 6341

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served August 30, 2001

Application of METRO HOMES, INC.,)
for a Certificate of Authority --)
Irregular Route Operations)

Case No. AP-2001-64

Applicant seeks a certificate of authority to transport passengers in irregular route operations between points in the Metropolitan District, restricted to transportation in vehicles with a seating capacity of less than 16 persons only, including the driver.

Applicant's president and sole stockholder, Maxwell Asenso, is the president and controlling stockholder of Metro Day Treatment Center, Inc., which has applied for a certificate of authority in Case No. AP-2001-65.

Applications for certificates of authority are governed by Title II of the Compact, Article XI, Section 7. Applications for approval of common control are governed by Article XII, Section 3.

I. CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY

Article XI, Section 7(a), authorizes the Commission to issue a certificate of authority if it finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that the applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

Applicant proposes commencing operations with three vans. Applicant proposes a contract tariff for transportation under the DC Medicaid program.

Applicant filed a balance sheet as of May 31, 2001, showing assets of \$618,556; liabilities of \$384,133; and equity of \$234,423. Applicant's projected operating statement for the first twelve months of WMATC operations shows WMATC revenue of \$135,000 and WMATC expenses of \$135,000.

Applicant certifies it has access to, is familiar with, and will comply with the Compact and the Commission's rules and regulations thereunder.

Based on the evidence in this record, the Commission finds that the proposed transportation is consistent with the public interest and that applicant is fit, willing, and able to perform the proposed transportation properly, conform to the provisions of the Compact, and conform to the rules, regulations, and requirements of the Commission.

II. COMMON CONTROL

Article XII, Section 3(a)(iii) & (c), authorizes the Commission to approve common control of two or more WMATC carriers, through ownership of stock or other means, if the Commission finds that common control is consistent with the public interest. The public interest analysis focuses on the fitness of the controlling party, the resulting competitive balance, and the interest of affected employees.¹

The three public interest factors warrant approval in this case. First, our finding of applicant's fitness permits an inference of Mr. Asenso's fitness.² Second, there should be no adverse effect on competition from the decision of Mr. Asenso to enter the market through two carriers instead of one carrier with two divisions.³ Third, the employees of these commonly-controlled carriers presumably have an interest in their employers acquiring valuable new operating rights.⁴

Each carrier is admonished to keep its assets, books, finances and operations completely separate from the other's. Sharing of office space will be allowed, but this should not be construed as permission to share revenue vehicles or operating authority.⁵

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. That upon applicant's timely compliance with the requirements of this order, Certificate of Authority No. 634 shall be issued to Metro Homes, Inc., 6856 Eastern Avenue, N.W., #214, Washington, DC 20012.

2. That applicant may not transport passengers for hire between points in the Metropolitan District pursuant to this order unless and until a certificate of authority has been issued in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

3. That applicant is hereby directed to file the following documents within thirty days: (a) evidence of insurance pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 58 and Order No. 4203; (b) an original and four copies of a tariff or tariffs in accordance with Commission Regulation No. 55; (c) a vehicle list stating the year, make, model, serial number, fleet number, license plate number (with jurisdiction) and seating capacity of each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (d) a copy of the vehicle registration card, and a lease as required by Commission Regulation No. 62 if applicant is not the registered owner, for each vehicle to be used in revenue operations; (e) proof of

¹ Act of Sept. 15, 1960, Pub. L. No. 86-794, § 3, 74 Stat. 1031, 1050 (1960) (codified at DC Code Ann. § 1-2414 (1999)); In re Cavalier Transp. Co., Inc., t/a Tourtime America, Ltd., & Tourtime America Motorcoach, Ltd., No. AP-96-21, Order No. 4926 (Sept. 12, 1996).

² In re J & J Transportation, L.L.C., t/a AAA Transport and All American Transit, No. AP-00-72, Order No. 6014 (Oct. 4, 2000).

³ Id.

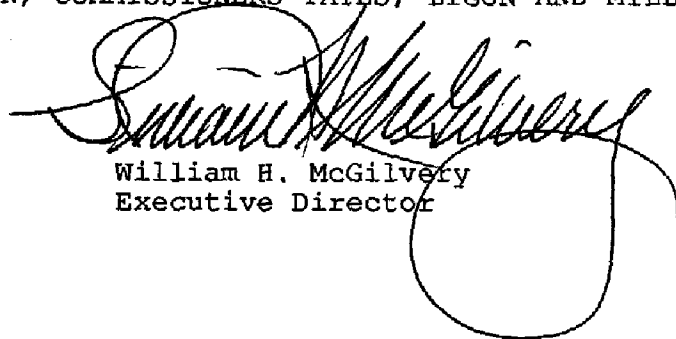
⁴ In re Faith Transp., Inc., No. AP-96-65, Order No. 4993 (Jan. 6, 1997).

⁵ Order No. 6014.

current safety inspection of said vehicle(s) by or on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation, the State of Maryland, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Virginia; and (f) a notarized affidavit of identification of vehicles pursuant to Commission Regulation No. 61.

4. That the grant of authority herein shall be void and the application shall stand denied upon applicant's failure to timely satisfy the conditions of issuance prescribed herein.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS YATES, LIGON AND MILLER:



William H. McGilvery
Executive Director

